

Drought Update: What's in Store for 2012

An aerial photograph of a large reservoir, likely Lake Mead, showing significant water level recession. The water is a deep blue, while the exposed banks are a light tan color. Several long, rectangular barges are floating in the water. In the background, there are green hills and some buildings.

February Water Committee Meeting

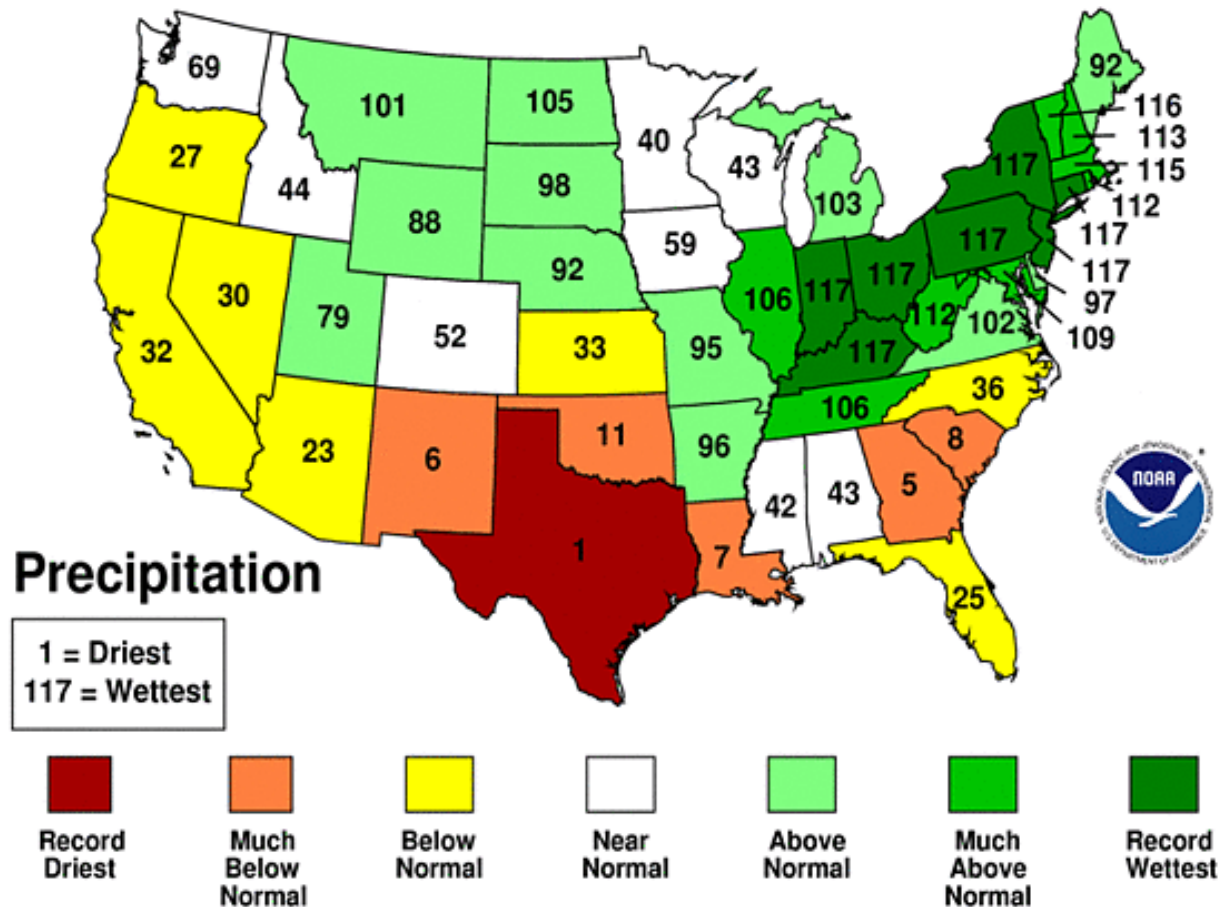
February 21, 2011

Bob Rose, LCRA Chief Meteorologist

Driest Calendar Year on Record for Texas

January-December 2011 Statewide Ranks

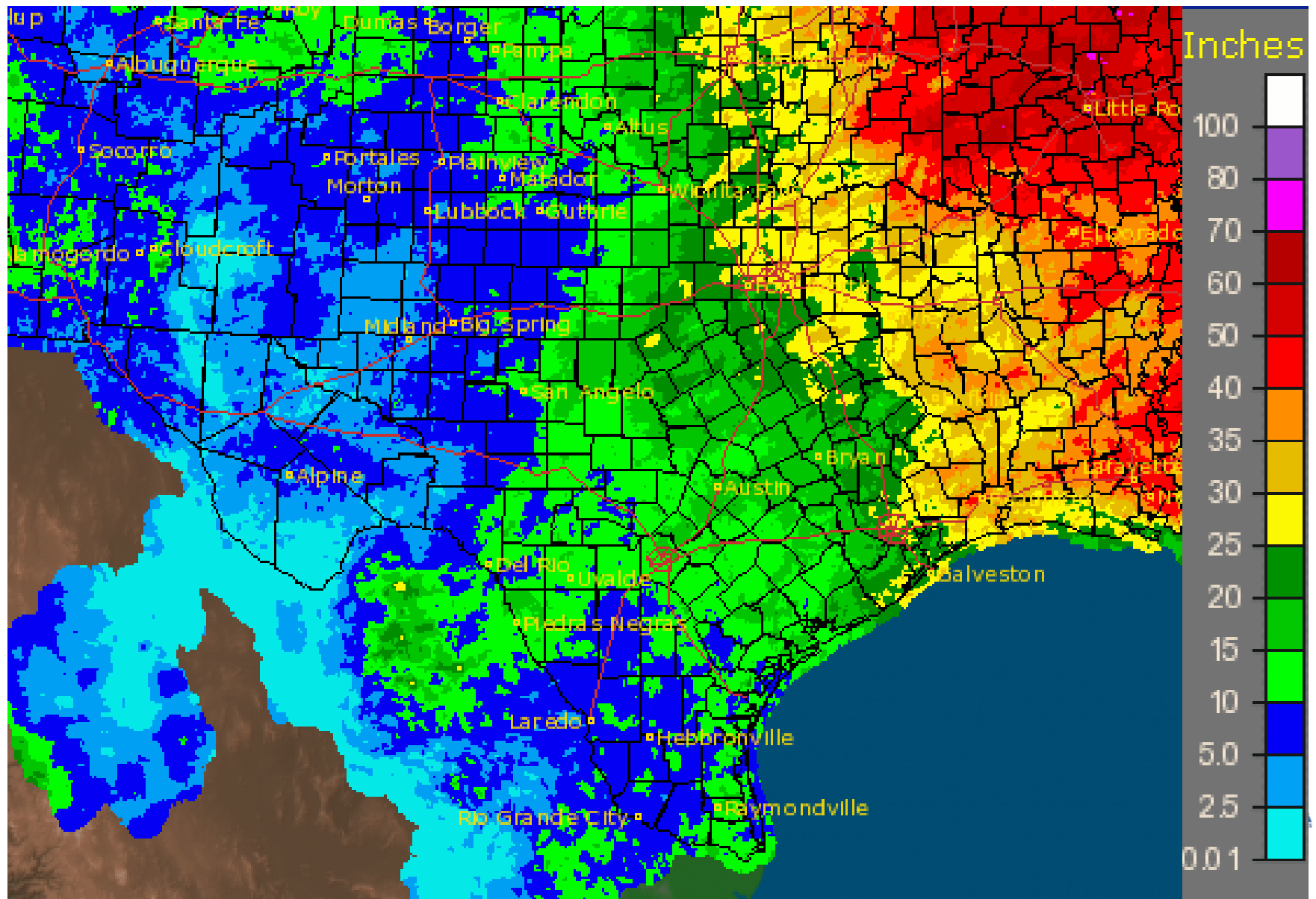
National Climatic Data Center/NESDIS/NOAA



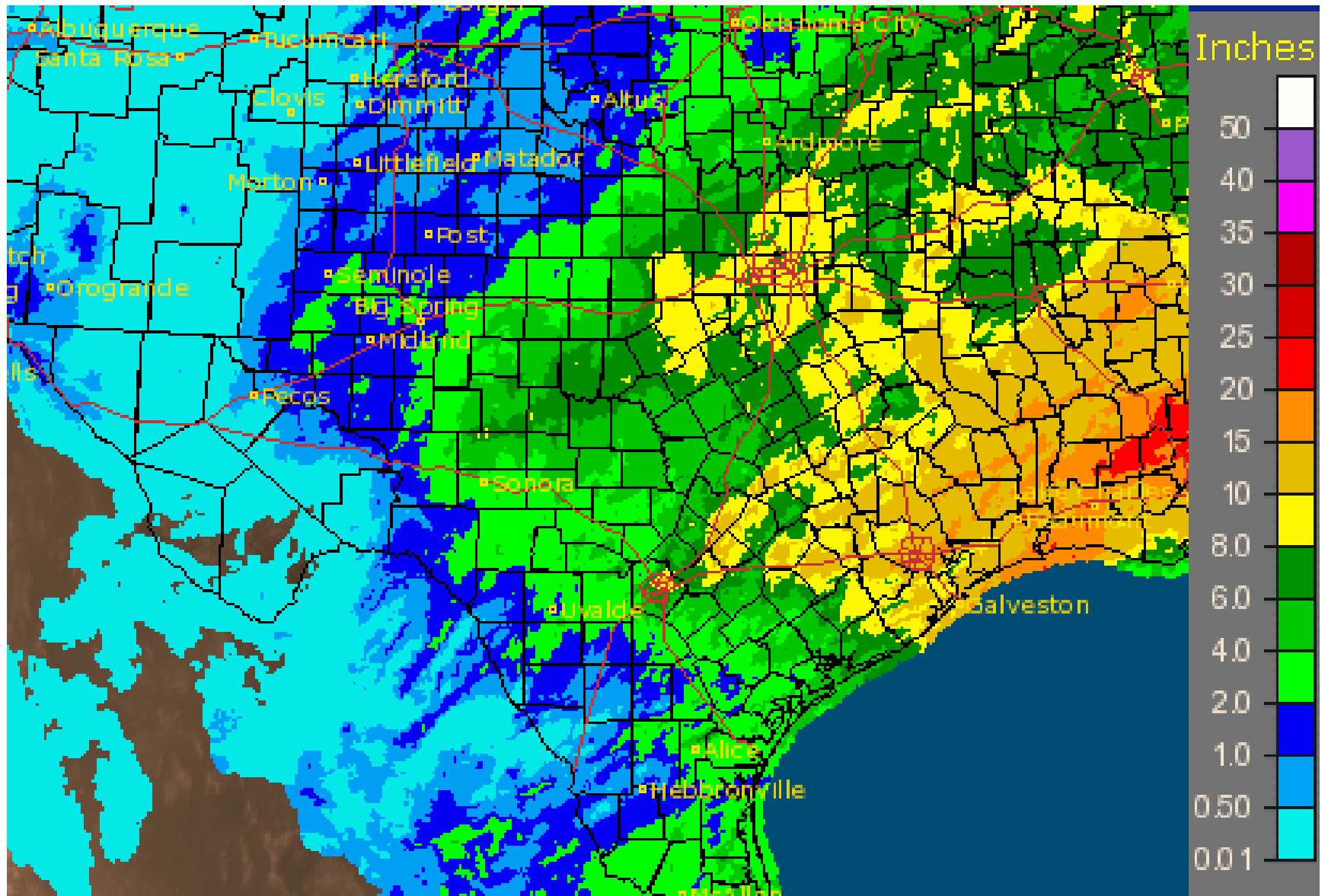
2011 Texas Weather Statistics

- **14.88 inches. *Driest calendar year on record!* Previous record was 14.99 inches in 1917.**
- **Average Temperature 67.2 degrees. *Second hottest year on record.* Hottest year was 67.5 degrees set in 1921.**

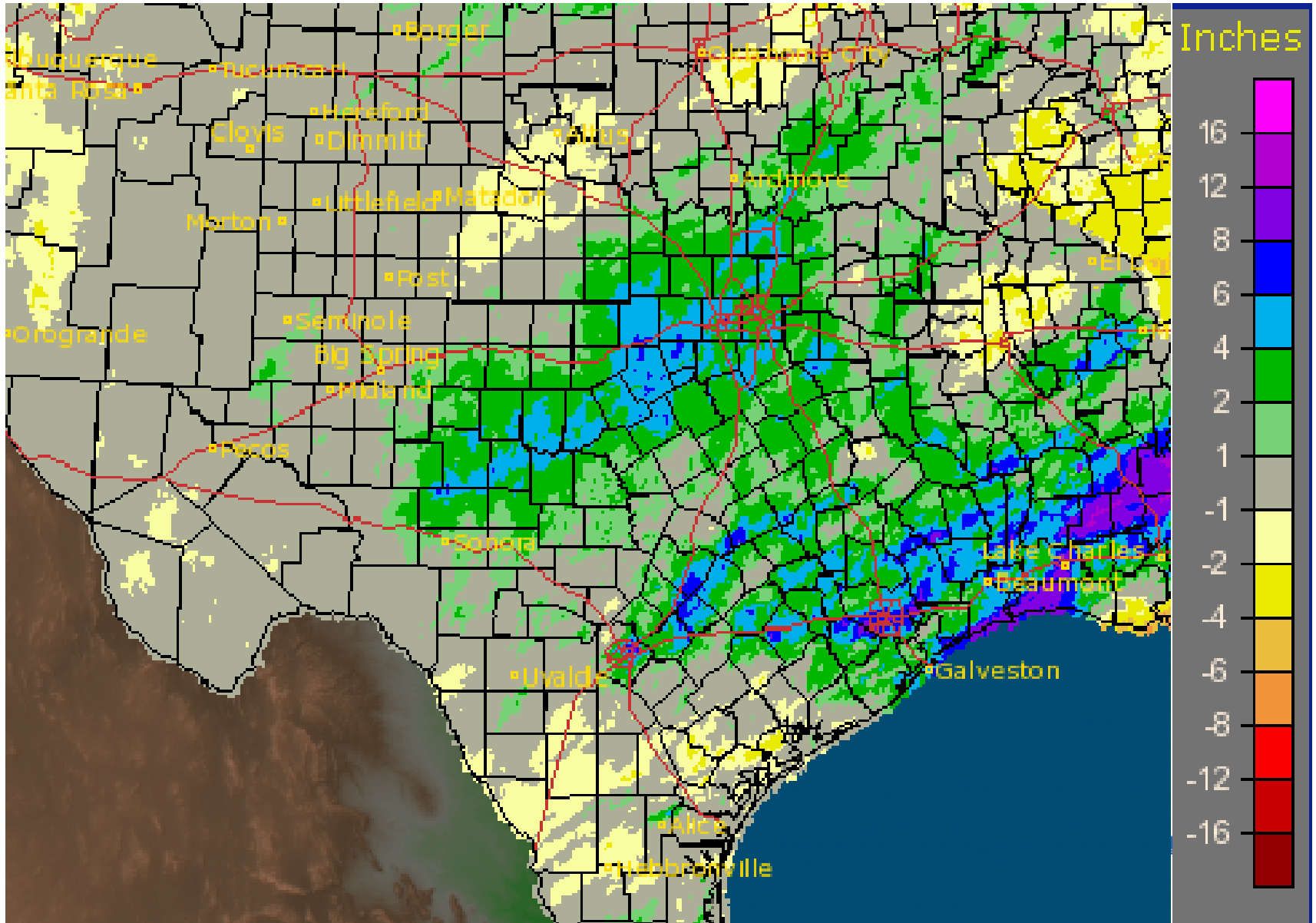
2011 Rainfall



Rainfall, Past 60 Days



Departure from Normal, Past 60 days



U.S. Drought Monitor

Texas

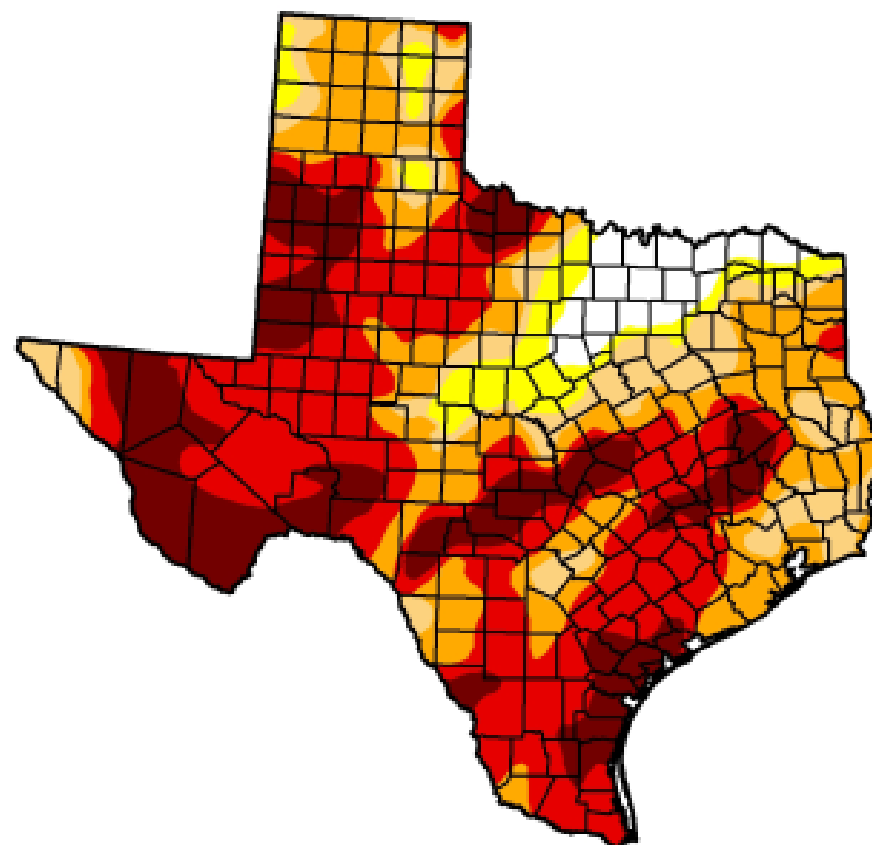
February 14, 2012

Valid 7 a.m. EST

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

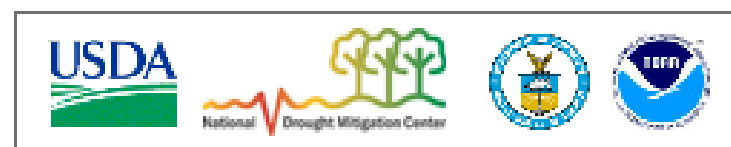
	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	4.93	95.07	89.08	76.46	53.27	20.41
Last Week (02/07/2012 map)	4.93	95.07	90.05	77.46	54.96	23.12
3 Months Ago (11/15/2011 map)	0.00	100.00	100.00	97.57	88.76	65.11
Start of Calendar Year (12/27/2011 map)	0.01	99.99	97.83	84.81	67.32	32.36
Start of Water Year (09/27/2011 map)	0.00	100.00	100.00	99.16	96.65	85.75
One Year Ago (02/08/2011 map)	15.72	84.28	57.15	37.35	7.78	0.00

Intensity:



*The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions.
Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary
for forecast statements.*

<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu>

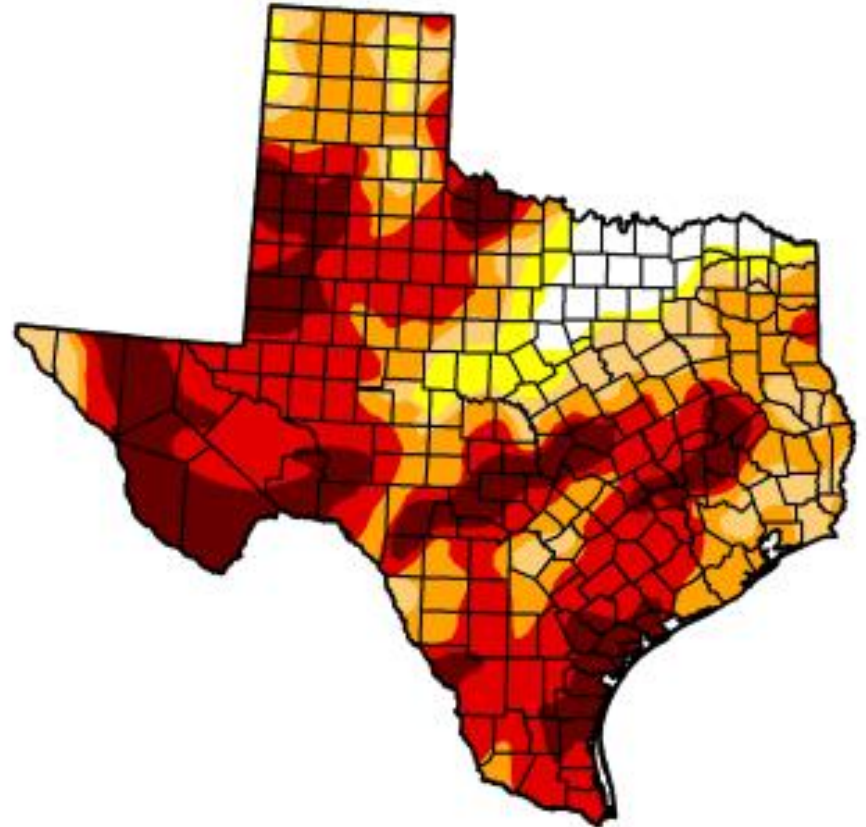
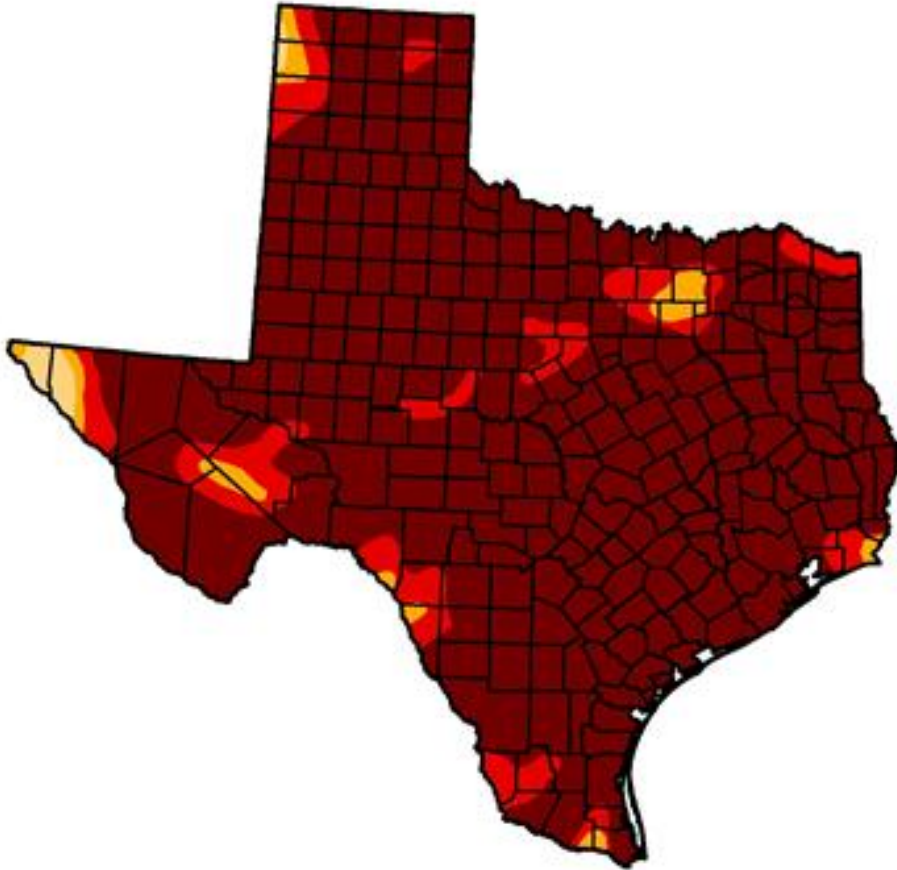


Released Thursday, February 16, 2012

Rich Tinker, NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Climate Prediction Center

October 4, 2011

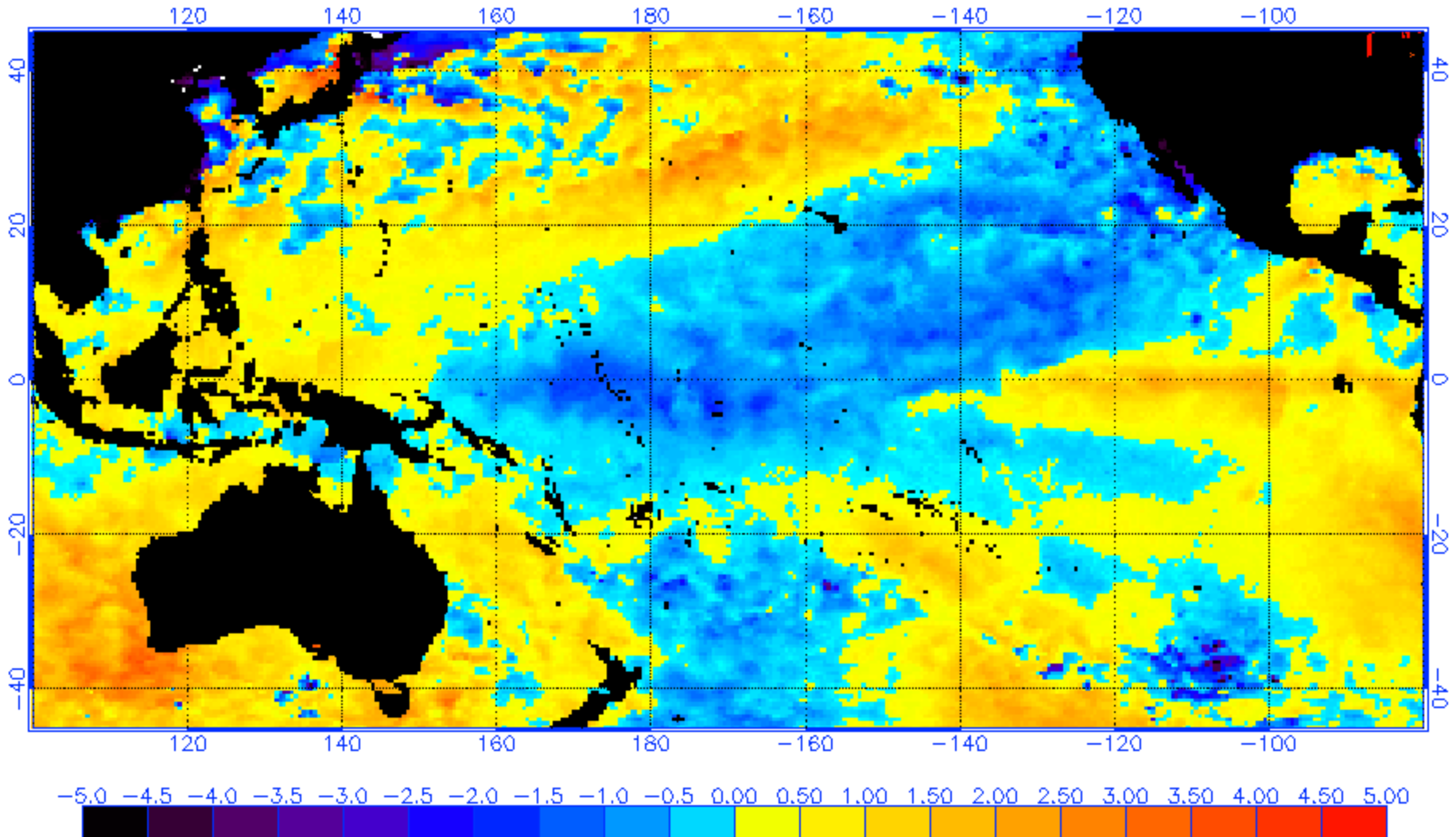
February 14, 2012



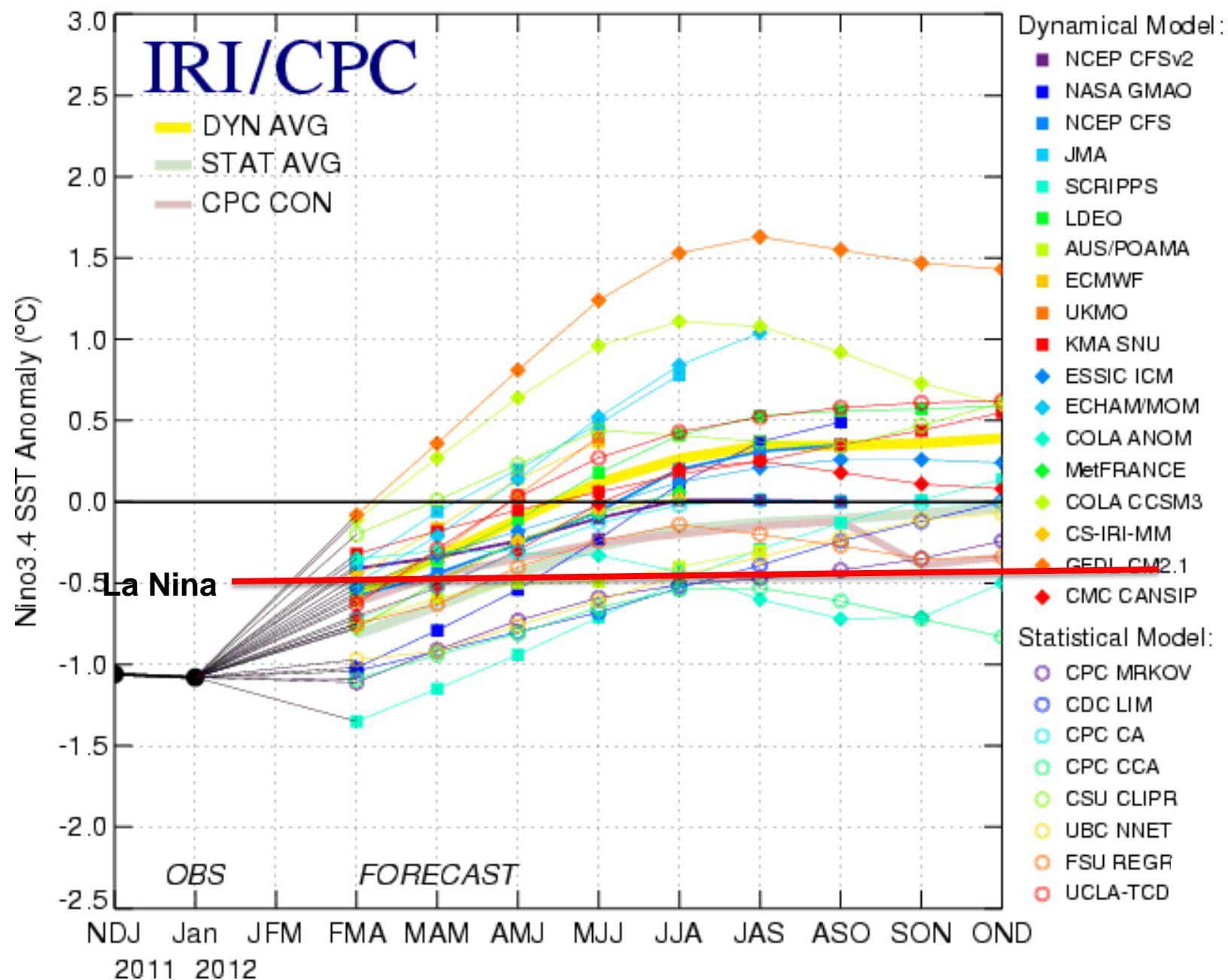
Drought Monitor Comparison

A Weak to Moderate La Niña

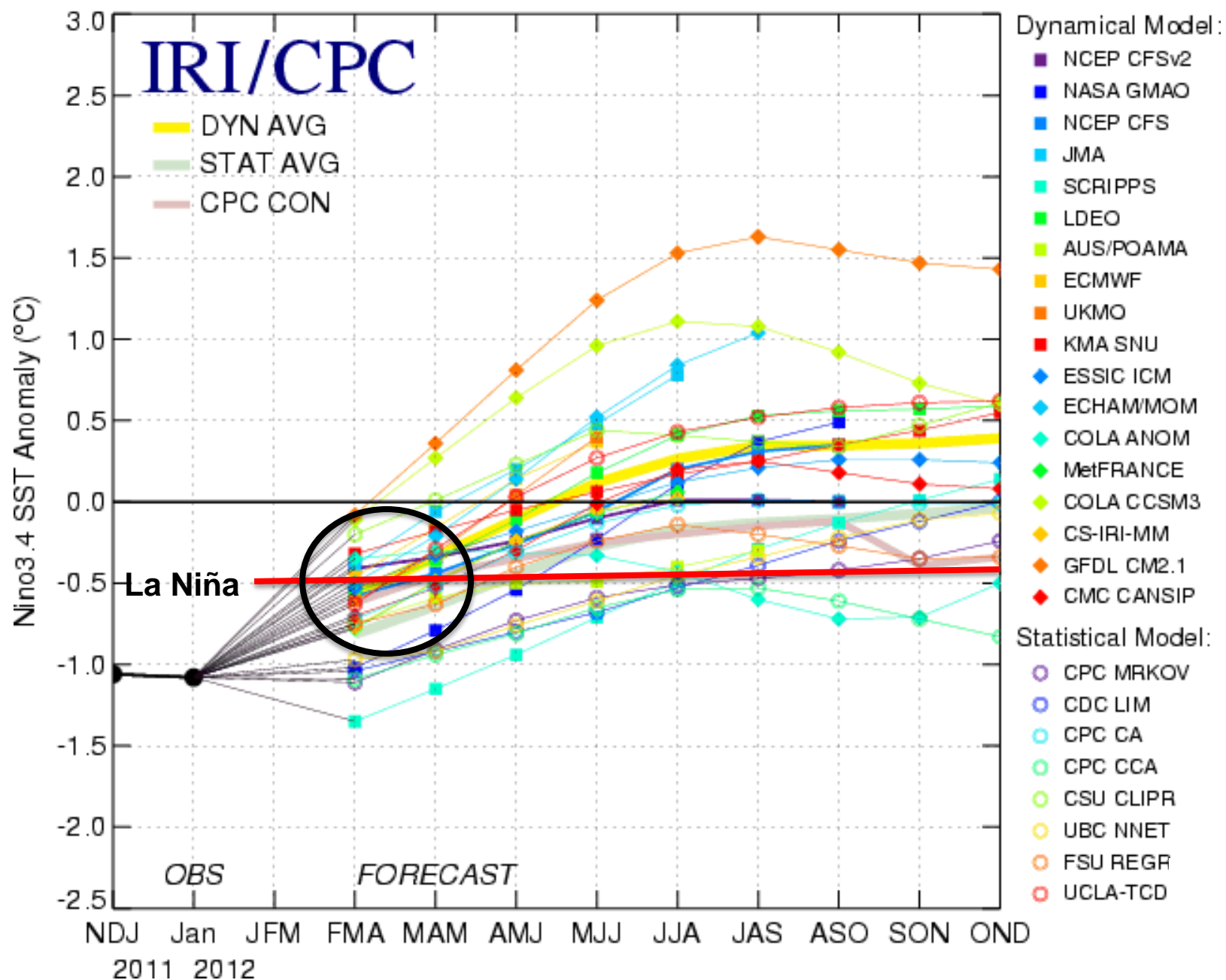
NOAA/NESDIS SST Anomaly (degrees C), 2/20/2012



Mid-Feb 2012 Plume of Model ENSO Predictions



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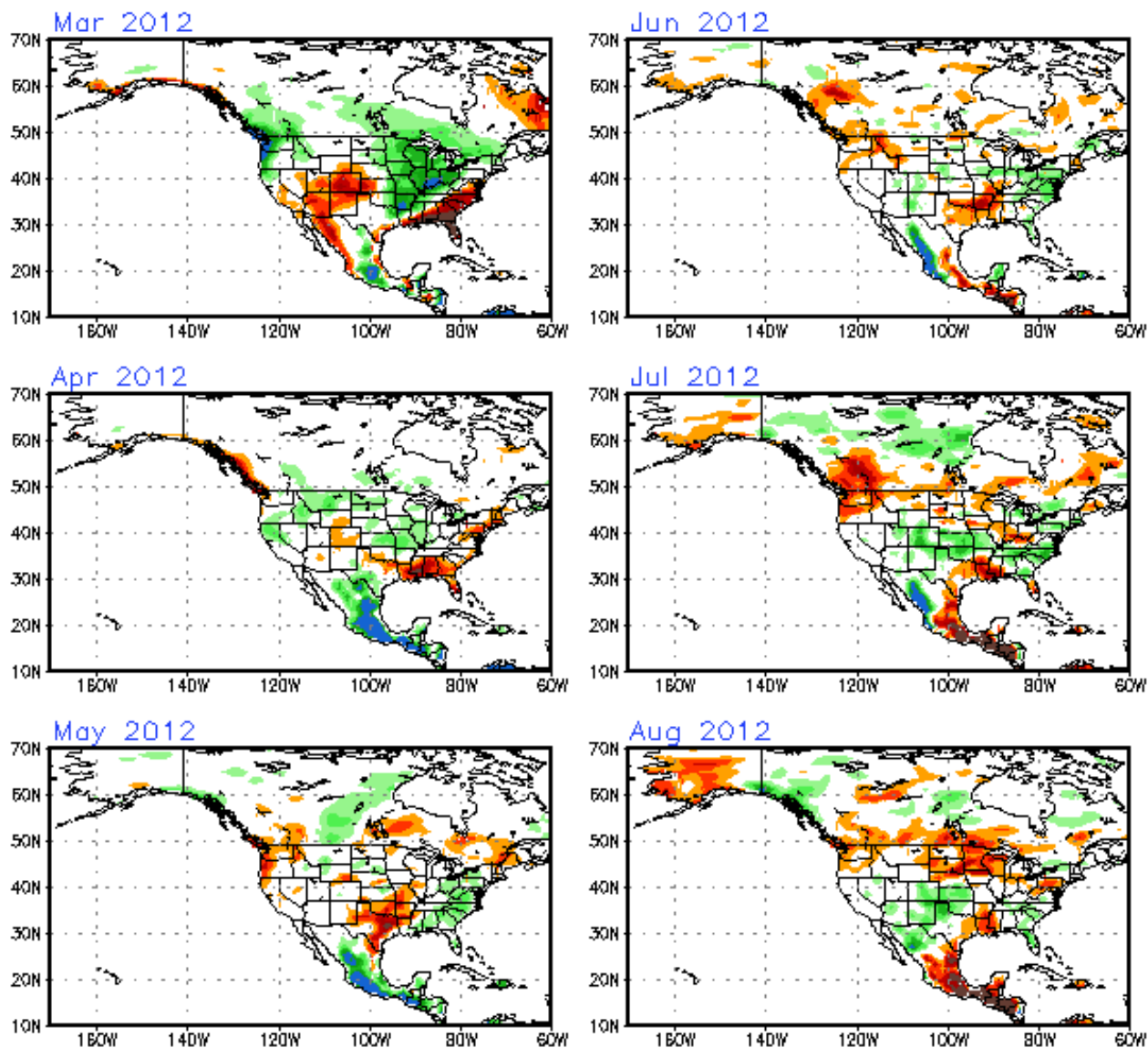


NWS/NCEP/CPC

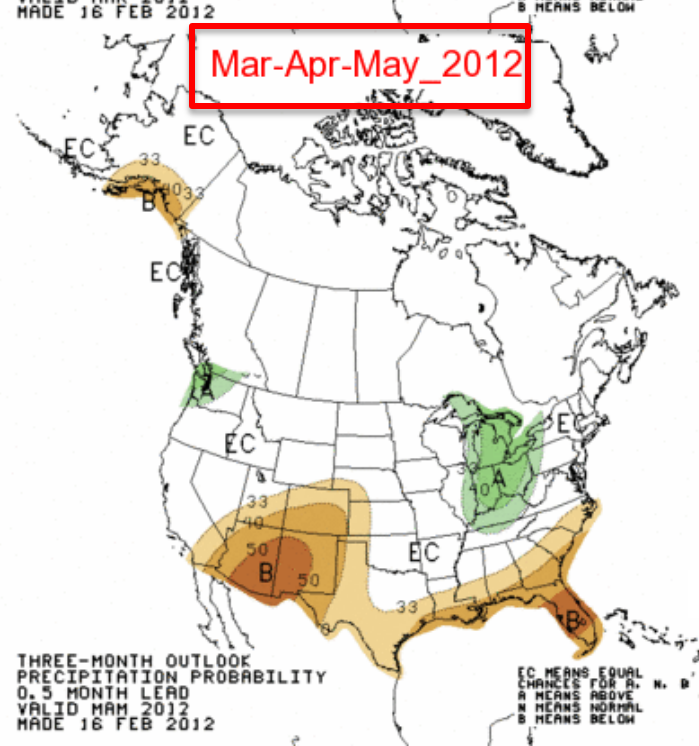
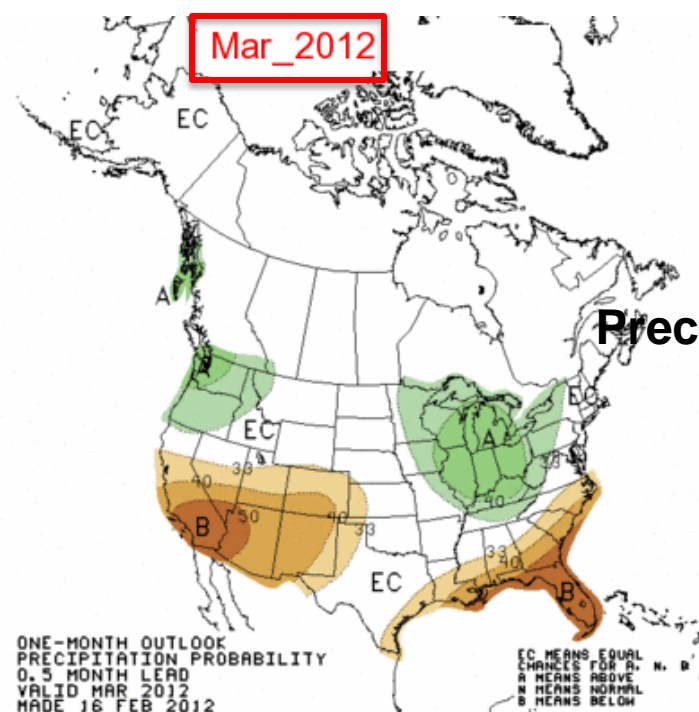
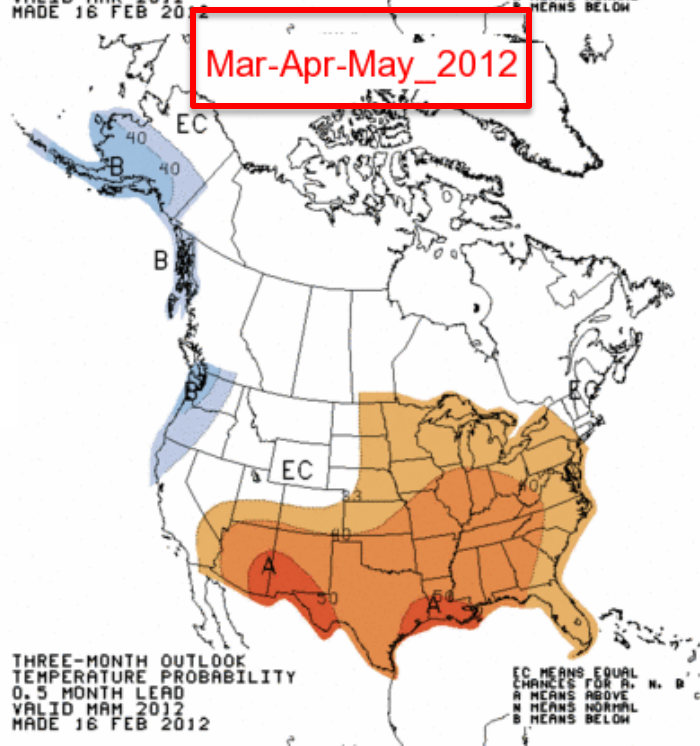
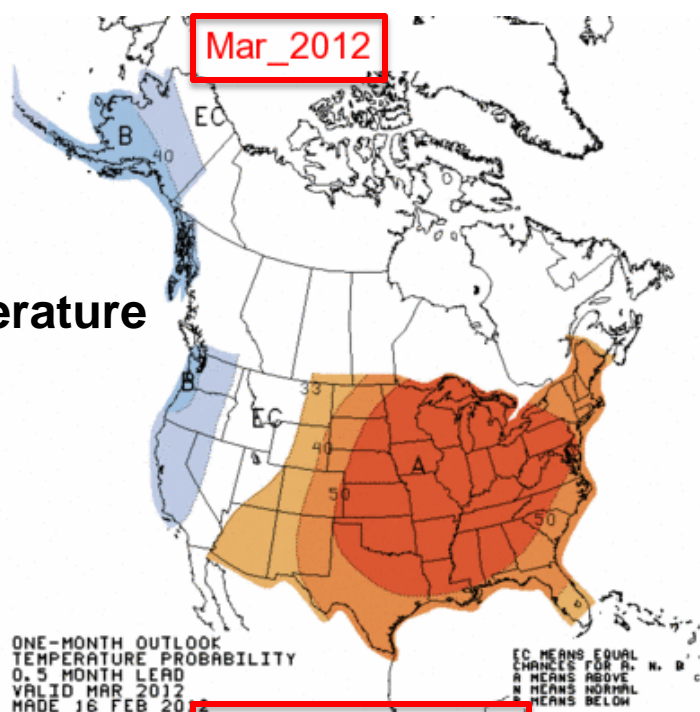
Initial conditions: 9Feb2012–18Feb2012

Last update: Mon Feb 20 2012

CFSv2 monthly Prec (mm/day)



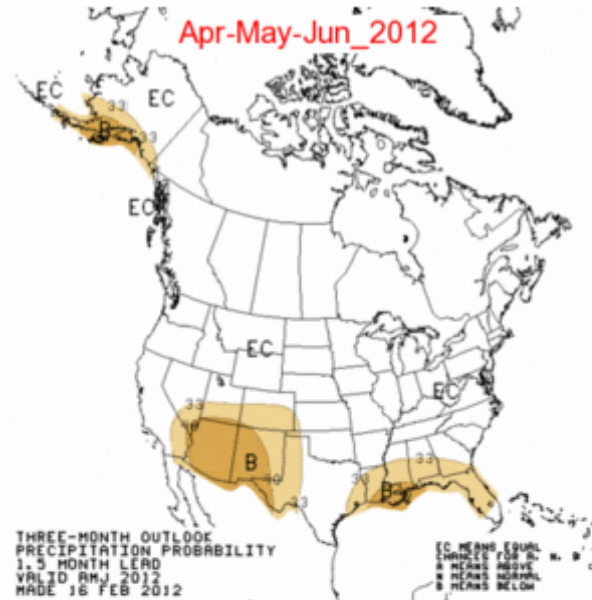
Temperature



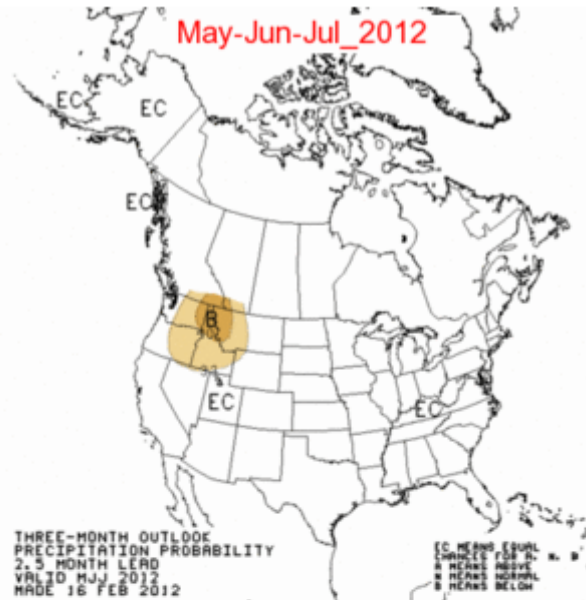
Precipitation

NWS Summer into Fall Rainfall Outlook

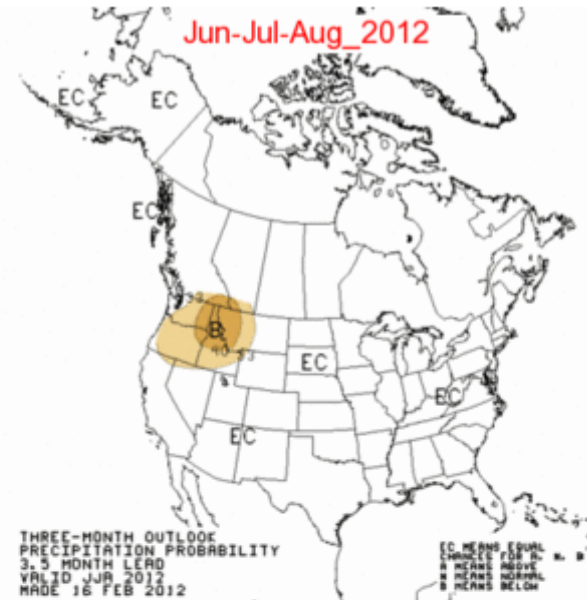
Apr-May-Jun_2012



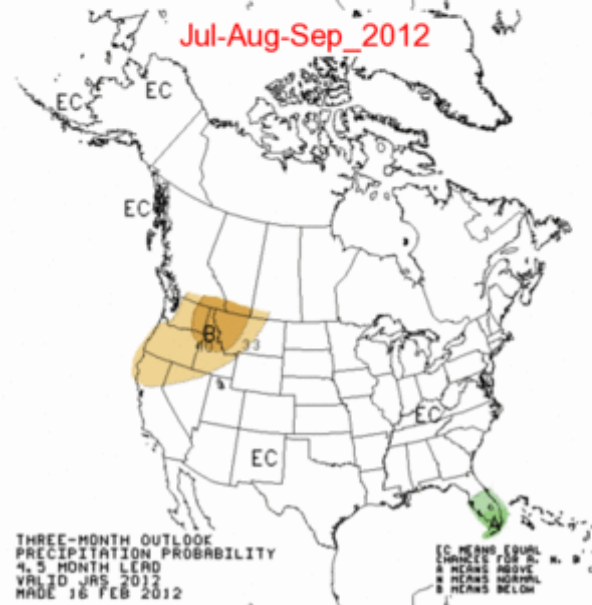
May-Jun-Jul_2012



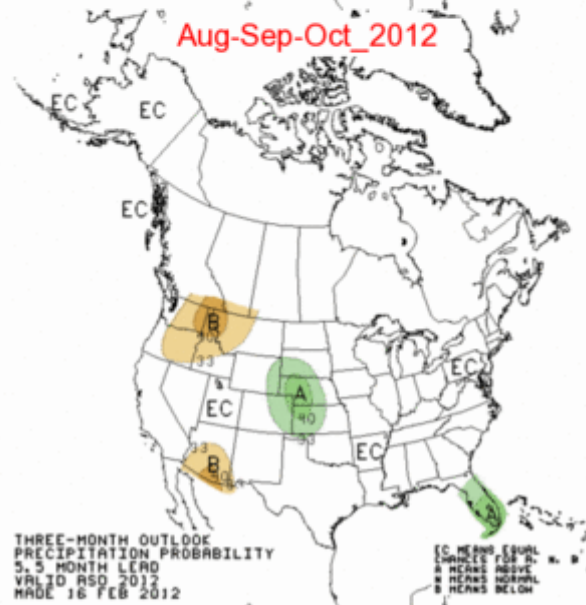
Jun-Jul-Aug_2012



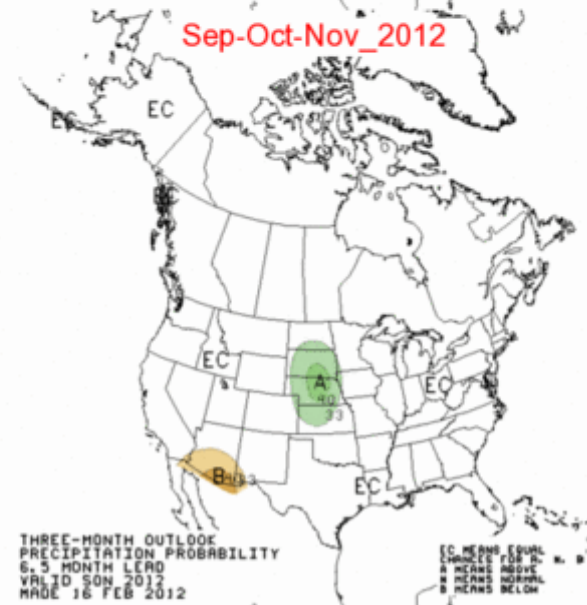
Jul-Aug-Sep_2012



Aug-Sep-Oct_2012



Sep-Oct-Nov_2012



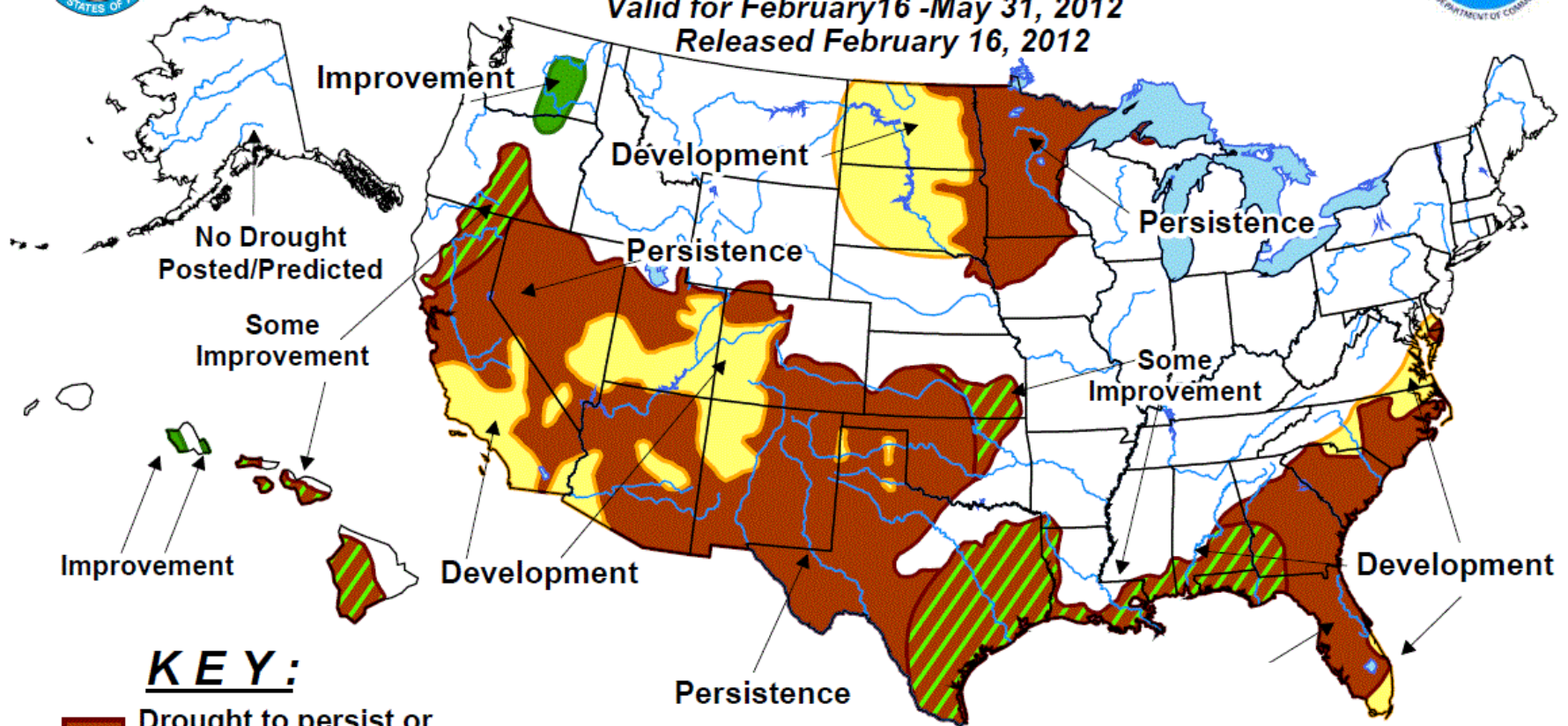
Drought Outlook through May

U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook





Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

Valid for February 16 - May 31, 2012

Released February 16, 2012



KEY:

-  Drought to persist or intensify
-  Drought ongoing, some improvement
-  Drought likely to improve, impacts ease
-  Drought development likely

Depicts large-scale trends based on subjectively derived probabilities guided by short- and long-range statistical and dynamical forecasts. Short-term events -- such as individual storms -- cannot be accurately forecast more than a few days in advance. Use caution for applications -- such as crops -- that can be affected by such events. "Ongoing" drought areas are approximated from the Drought Monitor (D1 to D4 intensity). For weekly drought updates, see the latest U.S. Drought Monitor. NOTE: the green improvement areas imply at least a 1-category improvement in the Drought Monitor intensity levels, but do not necessarily imply drought elimination.

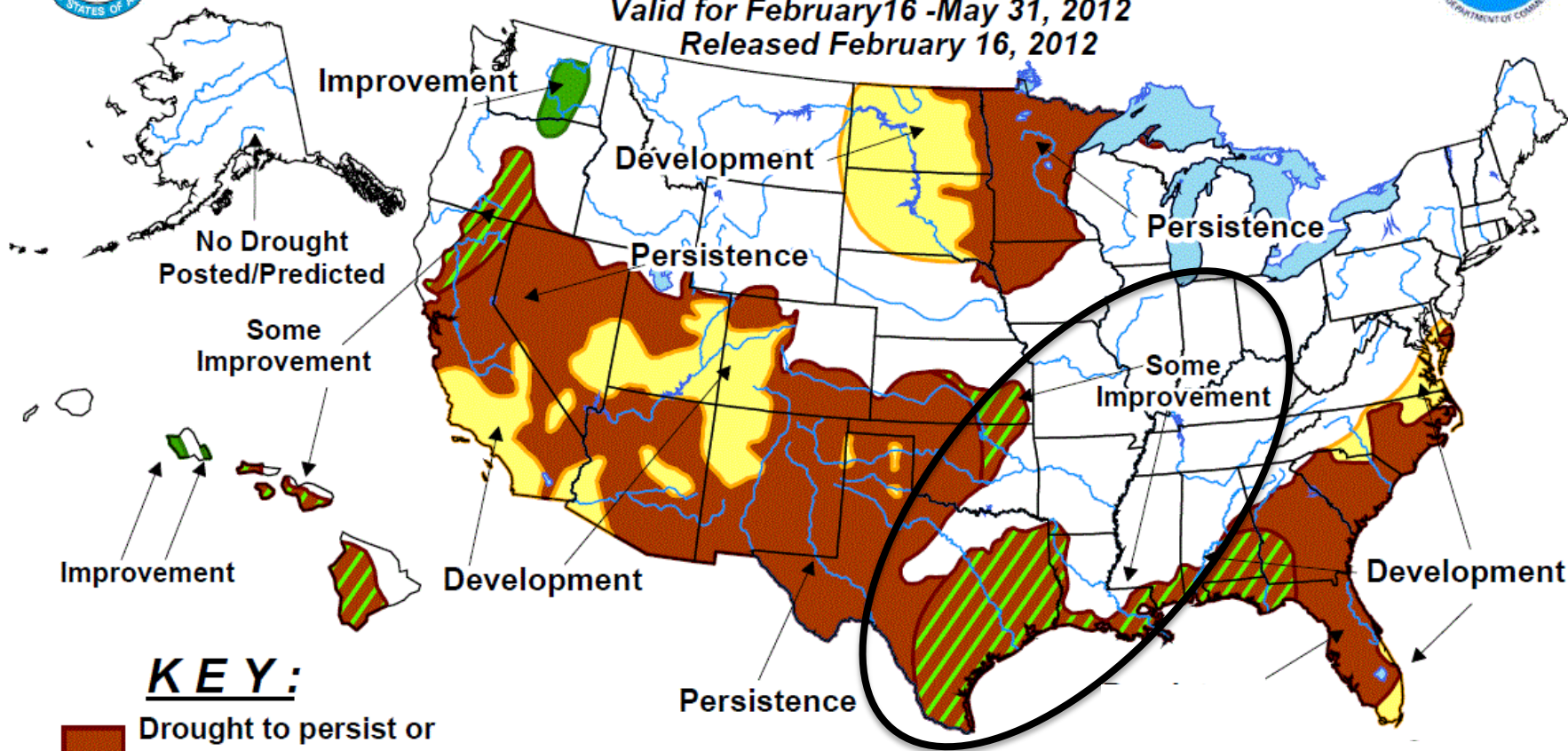
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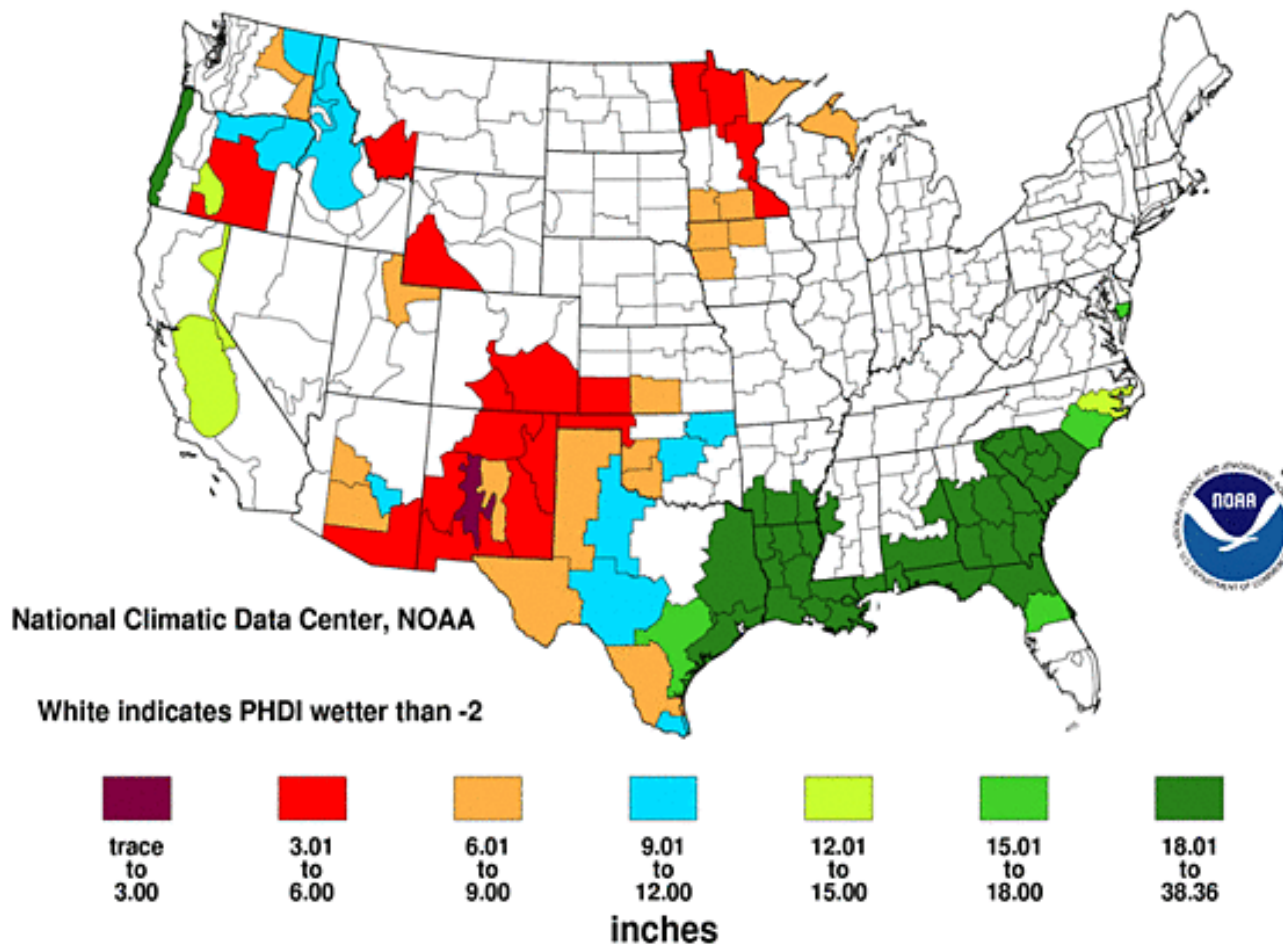
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Rain Needed to End the Drought in 3 Months

Precipitation Required to End Current
Drought Conditions in Three Months

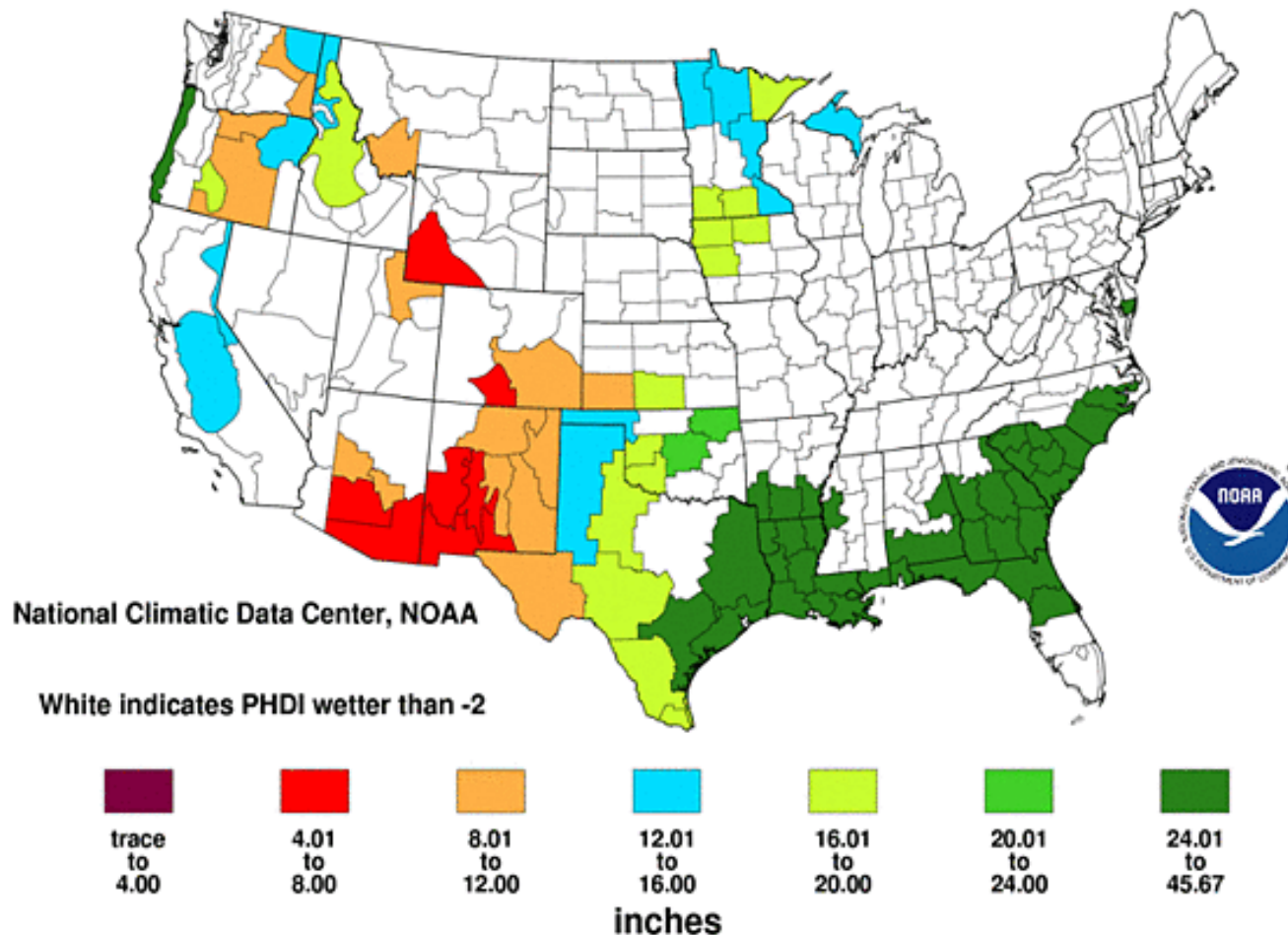
January 2012



Rain Needed to End the Drought in 6 Months

Precipitation Required to End Current
Drought Conditions in Six Months

January 2012

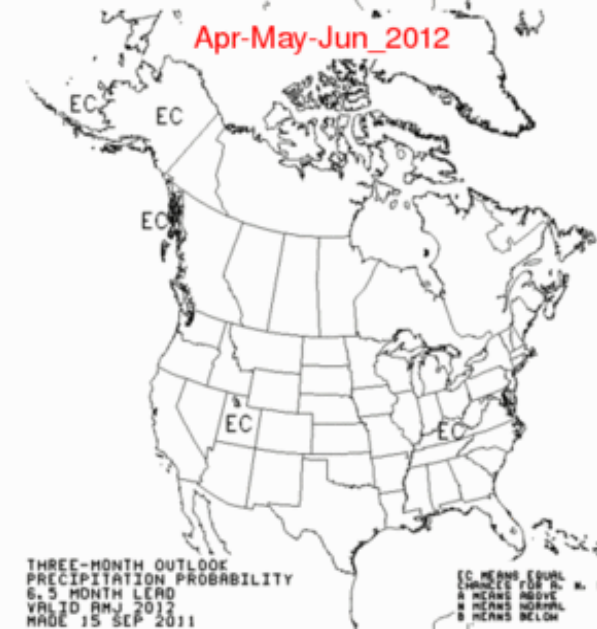
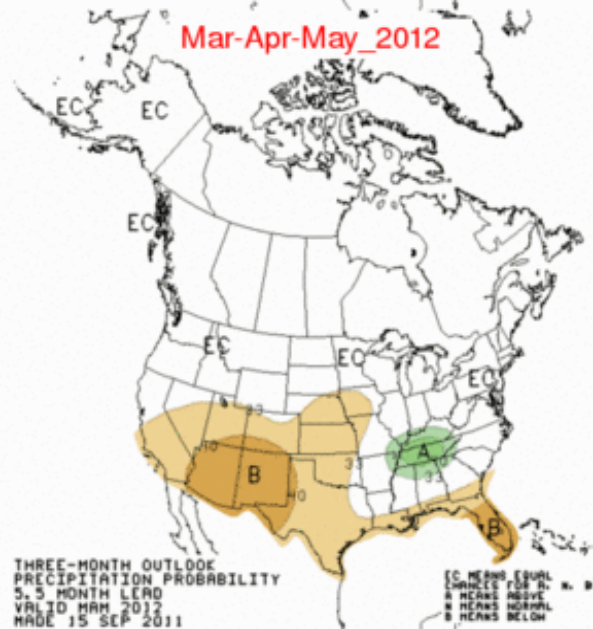
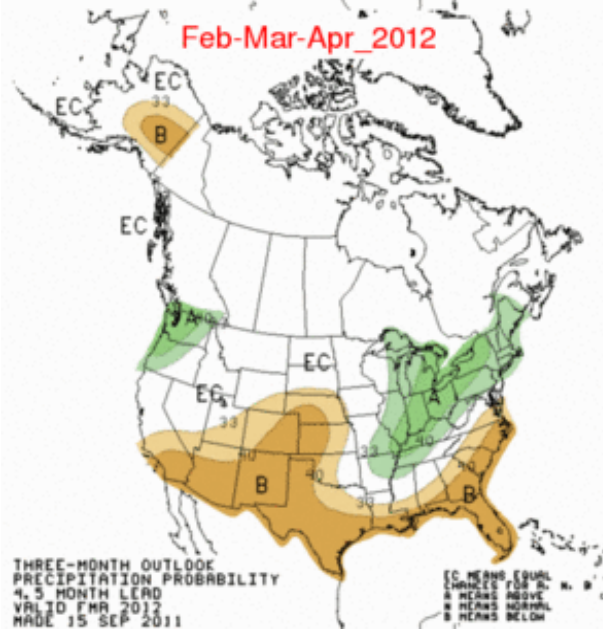
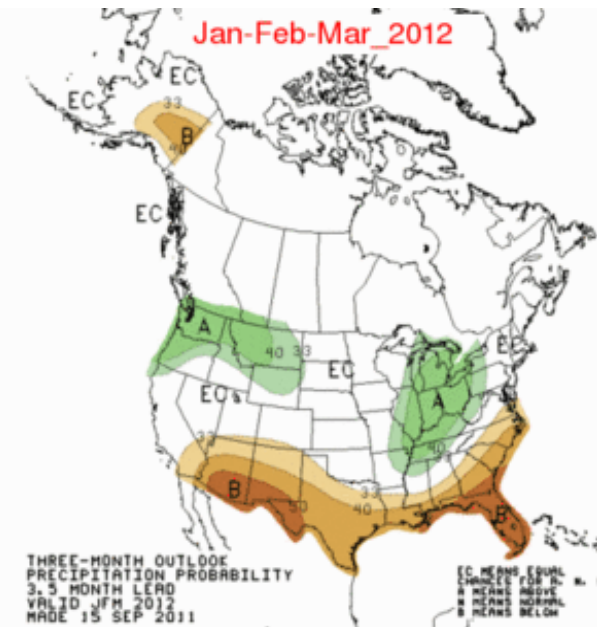
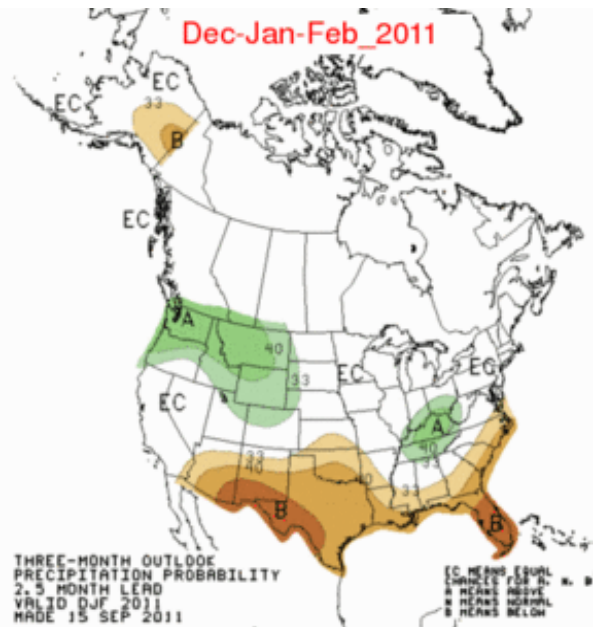
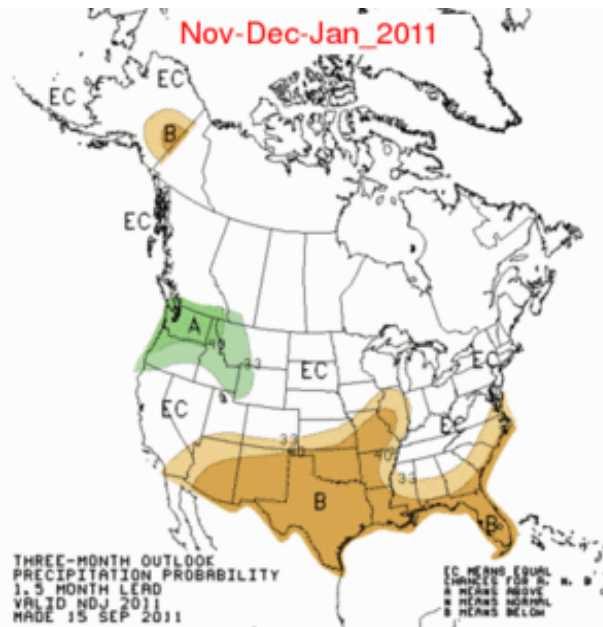


Take Home Points

- *Still no clear end in sight to the ongoing drought. However, conditions have improved some since last summer.*
- *Pattern of frequent rains shows no signs of breaking down. More drought improvement expected.*
- *A potential for heavier rains May into June.*
- *Summer not as hot or as dry as last year.*
- *Several models trending toward El Niño this fall.*

Previous Forecasts

Rainfall Outlook from October



“October Take Home Points”

- *No clear end in sight to the ongoing drought; could last well into 2012.*
- *Scattered rains possible this fall and winter but not heavy enough to temper the drought.*
- *Intense droughts are hard to break.*
- *Tropical storms rains now not likely.*
- *La Niña is back. Late fall and winter expected to be drier than normal.*
- *Dry years interspersed with wet years.*

“October Take Home Points”

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- *La Niña is back. Late fall and winter expected to be drier than normal.*
- *Dry years interspersed with wet years.*

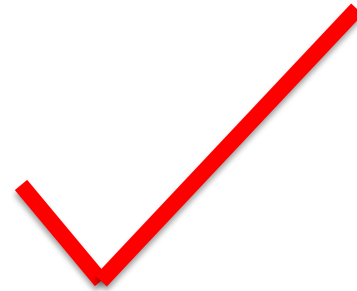
A

B

C

D

F





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